THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) No, Sir. NIC had not envisaged unhindred inflow of data from all corners of the country for conceptualisation of the planning process. NIC was set up primarily for creating a science and technology infrastructure for informatics including information format standardisation, software development and setting up of a Computer-communication network called NICNET linking among others the district administrations, State/UT Governments and the civilian departments of the Central Government. NIC is not primarily an information collection agency. Information stored on NICNET is mainly the responsibility of the user organisation and disseminated on the network on the auhorization of the user organisations.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) With the completion of NICNET providing computer-communication linkage upto the District level, Government's future plans envisagt a phased expansion of NICNET to the Tehsil level and subsequently to the Block level.

Industries which are using Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) Gases

1518. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some industries in the country use Chlorofluro-carbon (CFC) gases which deplete the Ozone layer of the atmosphere;

(b) if so, what are the details of which industries and their products; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to protect the Ozone layer?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) Cholorobuorocarbons (CFCs) are used in India in refrigeration, air-conditioning, foams, aerosols, electronics and computer industries.

(c) The Government are considering joining the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone leyer.

Export of Defence Goods

1519. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of defence goods exported during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to increase the export of defence goods; and

(c) if so, the efforts made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) The value of defence goods exported during the last three years is approximately Rs. 58 crores.

(b) and (c) Government are engaged in the efforts to increase the export of defence goods, such as policy and procedural liberalisations marketing efforts through our missions and by the production agencies and sales publicity measures such as participation in foreign exhibitions, exchange of delegations etc.

Environmental Clearance to Vijayawada Thermal Power Station

1520. DR. NARREDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given environmental clearance for installation of 2 x 210 M.W. Vijayawada Thermal Power Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?